

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 23, 2008, the Examiner maintained the rejections of claims 1-23 and 29-75 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 1, 29, and 52 are independent claims.

Each of these claims includes the elements of:

- allowing users to select digital photographs stored by other users; and
- providing the users with route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs.

Applicants previously argued that U.S. Patent No. 7,135,994 (“Kamikawa”) does not teach the claim element of “providing the users with route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs.” (See Response to Office Action Mailed March 26, 2008, pages 15-16.)

In response to Applicants’ arguments, the Examiner stated that “Kamikawa discloses providing rout [sic] guidance for a selected image (column 7 lines 60-67 and column 8 lines 1-10) the image being selected by the users [sic] current position.” (Office Action, page 2 (emphasis added).) Additionally, the Examiner stated that the claim language “the user selects a photographic image for rout [sic] guidance” is not in the claim. (Office Action, page 2.) Based on these remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections of claims 1-23 and 29-75.

Antecedent basis connects the two claim elements listed above. Specifically, “users” in the first element are “the users” in the second element and “the selected digital photographs” in the second element refers to the selection of “digital photographs” in the first element. The claimed route guidance is provided “for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs” and the route guidance is provided to the same users that selected the digital photographs. Thus, an image selected by a user’s current position does not teach the claimed

“selected digital photographs.” As a result, Kamikawa does not show or suggest “providing the users with route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request notice to this effect. The Examiner is requested to contact Applicants’ representative below if any questions arise or she may be of assistance to the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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